

order against the gentleman from Oregon's amendment, but that is going to hurt the other gentleman from Oregon. I mean, this is a partial help as a place holder in this bill.

And the distinguished chairman and I were just talking about we put \$425 million in the supplemental to take care of this problem. Now, you've got to go get this done in the authorization committee. And I'm not going to risk this bill, which we fought so hard to create, on a chance that we might pass this amendment and cut all this other spending that's important in the bill to my constituents.

Mr. TIAHRT. Well, reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, I believe that we're being inconsistent here. And I would hope for some consistency in the way we administer these areas where we have a point of order that can be reserved or can't be reserved. I think you should let the House work its will.

And when we make some winners that are chosen on your side, and then we arbitrarily choose not to allow Republicans to have the same opportunity, I think it's unfair. I would like some consistency in all the appropriations bills and not just this one.

And here we have a very critical need that affects both Republicans and Democrats. It's a critical need in these areas. And as the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) can tell you, it's going to be a big problem for him as well. So I just want some consistency here and allow the gentleman from California to have the House work its will.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Kansas' time has expired.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I wonder if somebody could call the Attending Physician's office. I'm getting a bad case of whiplash here just listening to these arguments that run in opposite directions.

I just heard the gentleman say a minute ago, and I must say, I'm sympathetic to his problem, but I just heard him say a minute ago that he's frustrated. Well, I'm frustrated too because, what I'd like to point out, as the President of the United States pointed out just a few weeks ago, is that the gentleman's knocking on the wrong door.

And with all due respect, when Mr. LEWIS was chairman of the Appropriations Committee last year, it wasn't his job to reauthorize this program. And as chairman of the committee this year, it isn't my job to reauthorize this program. You need to go to the authorizing committee.

We have gotten dozens of lectures through the last month from Members on your side of the aisle who fuss and fume about individual earmarks that they say are not "authorized."

Well, this is a case where we on the committee are saying the following:

you came to us last year. You said you couldn't get the authorizing committee off its duff, and so you wanted some help to sustain this program until you could get them to reauthorize it. So even against the strong objection of the President of the United States, and the last time I looked, he was a Republican, even in the light of his objection, we put in over \$400 million to create a bridge for you until you could get this problem resolved.

Now, I'm sorry that this has not been reauthorized. You need to take that up with another committee. All I can tell you is that we're taking time on this bill, on this amendment because you think somebody else, in some other committee, didn't do their job.

Well, you can't have it both ways, and neither can we. So I would simply ask the gentleman to please go to the right committee. And I'd be happy to send them a letter. The fact is you're taking up this committee's time, and we're getting squawks from Members on both sides of the aisle saying, "Why are you appropriators taking so blessed much time."

Well, with all due respect, it's not the appropriators trying to take the time. It's people who are not on the Appropriations Committee who are aiming at the wrong committee in their search of solution to a problem.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I would be happy to yield to my tire-changing friend from Kansas.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chairman, we have, I think, a real crisis in the rural areas, and I do not blame the Members for using every means available to them to try to solve the problems in their districts. And I know it's not your responsibility to do it, but we've come through for these folks in the past, and I would just ask consideration in the future.

Mr. OBEY. I understand. All I can say is, we did respond. We've just heard umpteen speakers on your side of the aisle kick the blazes out of us because they're saying we're spending too much money. And now you're telling us that you're unhappy because we're not spending enough money on this program, and we're not even authorized to spend it. I have a difficult time following that logic.

Mr. TIAHRT. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. Sure.

Mr. TIAHRT. I understand the difficulty in it, but it was off-set. And the chairman of the Interior Committee did not like the offsets, and that's why he pushed the point of order. But it's just a different priority. And I have to say that is a pretty high priority.

I yield back.

Mr. OBEY. I understand. And I'm more than willing to cooperate because, unlike some people in this Congress, I recognize this is all one country. And we've got an obligation to recognize different needs and different de-

mands in different districts. I wish we had the same courtesy extended to us by certain other Members of the body.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. I thank the chairman, and I've commended him before for his work in our behalf in this very difficult problem we face in the rural areas. And you've been terrific to work with. You've been most generous, not only with your time, but with your assistance. And I supported you and that bill when it came before, in opposition to my own President, and would continue to do so, because I know who sent me here, and I know what they want. And you may have missed my earlier comments.

Mr. OBEY. No, I have been watching them on television.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. I'm sorry you've had to put up with me there. The point is, I've done everything I can to try and get the committee that I served on for 8 years to even hold a hearing to reauthorize this bill. When I was on that committee in 2005 and chaired the Forestry Subcommittee, we marked up a reauthorization in 2005 by March, and we passed it out of the committee by June.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Is the gentleman the designee of Mr. LEWIS?

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of California. I do so to yield to those who would like to continue this conversation. I'm glad to yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE).

Mr. DOOLITTLE. I very much appreciate that. I'd like to ask Chairman OBEY a question, if I may.

Mr. LEWIS of California. By way of me, certainly.

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Actually, I want to ask you one too, so I'm glad you're both up here.

Mr. Chairman, you have worked with us and tried to help us, and I would agree with Mr. WALDEN on that.

You were kind enough to offer something a minute ago that I'd just like to, if I may, accept that offer. You said you would write a letter to the chairman of the authorizing, the respective authorizing committees, which I think are both Resources and Agriculture in this case.

Could we, and with our ranking member, could I invite both you gentlemen to maybe submit such a letter to the relevant authorizing committee chairmen? I think that would be a step in the right direction here.

Mr. OBEY. If the gentleman will yield.

Mr. LEWIS of California. I yield, certainly.